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Response dated November 2, 2005

Claim 32 (withdrawn) A buoyancy assembly useful to connect a first subsea pipeline section to a second pipeline section according to the method of claim 27, the buoyancy assembly comprising:

first and second buoyancy devices including a hinged basket to swivelably receive a subsea pipeline section;
a pulley mechanism receiving a tension cable; and
a latching mechanism to secure said buoyancy devices together opposite said pulley mechanisms.

Claim 33 (new) A method for traversing a topographic feature selected from the group consisting of subsea basins, domes, valleys, cliffs, canyons, and escarpments with a subsea pipeline comprising:

installing the apparatus of claim 1; and
transporting fluids through the pipeline from the first location across the topographic feature to the second location.